

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/085,163

Examiner

Andrew L. Nalven

Applicant(s)

TOMLINSON, DAVID ROBIN

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment submitted 12/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 10, and 12-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

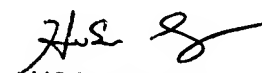
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>12/28/05</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                               | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

  
HOSUK SONG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 1-8, 10, and 12-34 are pending.

Drawings submitted on 4/19/2002 are accepted as formal drawings.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Ortega (Reg# 50,554) on 13 March 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. A security system for controlling access to encrypted information, comprising:  
a hardware device for storing at least one decryption key for use in decrypting an encrypted item of information, the decryption key being associated with a security code which is used by the hardware device to determine whether it is authorized to send encrypted copies of the decryption key to others, wherein if the hardware device is authorized to send an encrypted copy of the decryption key, it encrypts the decryption

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key and propagates the encrypted copy of the decryption key, wherein each time the hardware device propagates a decryption key, it includes as part of the decryption key an identifier indicating the identity of a sender's key, and wherein a user can append a control word against their identity in the decryption key to instruct the hardware device to initiate a message to them or an agent informing them of the propagation of the key and giving information concerning that propagation.

2. Claims 1-8, 10, and 12-34 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

4. With regards to claims 1-8, 10, and 12-17, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the appending of a control word against their identity in the decryption key to instruct the hardware device to initiate a message to them or an agent of the propagation of the key and giving information concerning that propagation. As such, the cited prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious the above-cited claims.

5. With regards to claims 18-34, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the a security code associated with an encryption key that includes a group code as an indication of an acceptable range of recipients to determine whether it is authorized to send encrypted copies of the decryption key to those recipients. As such, the cited prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious the above-cited claims.

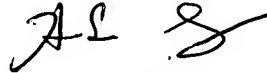
**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew L. Nalven whose telephone number is 571 272 3839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8-6, Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571 272 3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Andrew Nalven  


  
HOSUK SONG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER